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Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Letter dated 5 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

At the recently concluded general debate of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, a very small number of countries once again raised the so-called question of "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations". On instructions from the Chinese Government, I hereby state the following position:

1. There is only one China in the world; the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government representing the whole of China, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. This is a fact recognized by the overwhelming majority of countries in the world. Resolution 2758 (XXVI) adopted by the General Assembly in 1971 at its twenty-sixth session decided unequivocally to restore the lawful seat of the People's Republic of China at the United Nations and at the same time expel the Taiwan authorities from the Organization. In that resolution, the Assembly reaffirmed the "one-China" principle in an exact and wholistic manner. That resolution settled once and for all and in a just and comprehensive manner the question of China's representation at the United Nations. It conformed to the historical trend and reflected the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. It is of great historical and practical significance.

2. The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization composed of sovereign States. Taiwan, as a province of China, is in no position whatsoever to join the United Nations. A handful of countries have raised the question of "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations" openly at the General Assembly forum in an attempt to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" at the United Nations. Such an illegal act has wantonly flouted the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). It constitutes a grave encroachment on China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and gross interference in China's internal affairs. The Chinese Government and people express strong indignation at and condemnation of such an act. At the same time, this illegal act has naturally met with strong opposition from the vast number of justice-upholding States Members of the United Nations. Since 1993 the General Committee of successive sessions of the General Assembly has made the decision to refuse to put the so-called "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations" on the Assembly's agenda. This has fully demonstrated the strong resolve of the vast number of Member States to safeguard the

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purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). We sincerely wish to thank those countries that have upheld justice and supported China's national reunification. At the same time, we strongly believe that any divisive activities that go against the historical trend in order to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" as well as attempts to support these activities are doomed to failure.

3. The question of Taiwan is a purely internal matter for China and for the Chinese people that brooks no interference by any country or individual in any way under whatever pretext. The settlement of the question of Taiwan and the reunification of the motherland are the solemn and lofty missions of all the Chinese people, including those on Taiwan. Under the guidance of the Chinese Government's fundamental policy of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems", Hong Kong has returned to China. Macao will also return to the embrace of the motherland on 20 December 1999. The Taiwan question will also be solved. It is only a matter of time, and it will not drag on for too long. We are confident that the just cause of the Chinese Government and people to safeguard State sovereignty and territorial integrity will continue to have the understanding and support of the Governments and people of the vast majority of States Members of the United Nations.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55.

(Signed) **Qin** Huasun
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the People's Republic of China to the United Nations
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary